

Message Text

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16

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

SCA-01 OC-06 CCO-00 CPR-02 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

NSAE-00 NSC-07 SS-20 L-03 SAJ-01 /096 W

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O R 010342Z JUN 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1877

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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BANGKOK FOR BRDCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS PFOR

SUBJECT: CLASSIFICATION OF DIPLOMATIC COURIER VISAS FOR PRC

REF: STATE 097597

1. ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 1, MFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT INTERPRETER CALLED AND SPOKE TO USLO OFFICER ON BEHALF OF DIVISION CHIEF LIN YUNG-PING TO ASK WHY USLO ISSUED A B-1 DIPLOMATIC COURIER VISA (STATE 111525 NOTAL) INSTEAD OF THE G VISAS WHICH HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO PRC COURIERS. CONSULAR DEPARTMENT WISHED TO KNOW ON WHAT GROUNDS THIS VISA HAD BEEN ISSUED SINCE AT OUR PREVIOUS MEETING (PEKING 0852 NOTAL) IN WHICH WE HAD AGREED ON HOW DIPLOMATIC COURIER VISAS WERE TO BE ISSUED WE HAD NOT DISCUSSED THIS POINT SPECIFICALLY. AT THAT MEETING, INTERPRETERS SAID THAT USLO HAD OFFERED ONLY A GENERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXPLANATION OF THE CLASSIFICATIONS OF VISAS.

2. THE INTERPRETER WENT ON TO NOTE THAT ON MAY 28 AN AMERICAN COURIER HAD ARRIVED WITHOUT A VISA AND THAT ONE HAD BEEN ISSUED AS A SPECIAL FAVOR.

3. USLO OFFICER NOTED THAT THE US ISSUES VISAS BY CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT. HE NOTED THAT THE B-1 DIPLOMATIC VISA IS THE SAME AS THAT GIVEN TO OFFICIALS OF THE PRCLO AND THAT IT COMMANDS FULL DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.

4. (FYI - ON MAY 31, WHEN PRC COURIER PASSPORT WAS RETURNED TO MFA, MFA INQUIRED OF USLO INTERPRETER AS TO THE CORRECTNESS OF THE B-1 VISA. THE USLO INTERPRETER WAS TOLD TO REPLY THAT THE B-1 WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR AGREEMENT. THE MFA INTERPRETER INFORMED USLO OFFICER DURING ABOVE CONVERSATION THAT THE EXPLANATION GIVEN MAY 31 WAS "GROUNDLESS" SINCE THE TWO SIDES HAD NEVER TOUCHED ON THE TYPE OF VISA TO BE ISSUED. END FYI.)

5. AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITHIN USLO AND BECAUSE OF THE TIME FACTOR, AND THE CHINESE REFERENCE TO THEIR "SPECIAL FAVOR" TO THE COURIER WHO HAD ARRIVED WITHOUT A VISA, USLO AGREED TO REISSUE THE VISA AS A G VISA AND REQUESTED A MEETING WITH LIN YUNG-PING TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

6. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST B-1 DIPLOMATIC VISA WE HAVE ISSUED TO A PRC COURIER SINCE REFTEL. WE HAVE NOT INSPECTED THE VISAS ISSUED RECENTLY TO OUR DIPLOMATIC COURIERS, BUT WE SUSPECT THEY ARE STRAIGHT DIPLOMATIC VISAS.

7. WE DO NOT KNOW WHY THEY RAISED THE MATTER. THE CHINESE ARE AWARE OF THE REASONS FOR OUR ISSUING A B-1 DIPLOMATIC VISA RATHER THAN AN "A" VISA. THEY MAY BELIEVE THAT A G CLASSIFICATION PROVIDES MORE IMMUNITIES AND ARE THINKING OF THOSE INSTANCES WHERE B-1 DIPLOMATIC STATUS WAS NOT RESPECTED BY US OFFICIALS.

8. FOR BANGKOK: CAN YOU CONFIRM WHAT KIND OF VISA WAS ISSUED TO COURIER BELL ON MAY 28?
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9. FOR DEPARTMENT: REQUEST COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE SOONEST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, AGREEMENTS, COURIERS, DIPLOMATIC VISAS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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To: STATE BANGKOK
Type: TE
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